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AGRICULTURE

Faster harvesting, punctual grain deliveries to the State, minimum grain losses and better utilization of machinery are the focal points of the central and regional propaganda, as the unwieldy agricultural machine is getting into full production. Much of the regional radio criticism is directed against the apparent inability or unwillingness of the farmers and local authorities to concentrate on more than one aspect of the field work at a time. Thus when harvesting has reached the desired tempo, the grain losses are often correspondingly high, deliveries are slower or plowing for winter wheat is behind schedule.

KIROVOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (15 July) says that harvesting in the oblast was started late to begin with, and the haphazard work now underway in a number of rayons tends to aggravate the situation still further. Much of the hay and perennial grasses already mown has been left lying unstacked on the fields and rotting. Plowing for winter wheat which is scheduled to be done simultaneously with the harvesting have been grossly neglected and in some places even disregarded altogether: "Plowing has not even been started in ... Alexandrovskiy, Vityazevskiy, Dolinskiy, Kirovograd, Novgorodkovskiy and Ustinovskiy rayons "which have already been harvesting grain for a long time. The failure to plow up the planned area during this season is said to be creating unfavorable conditions for next year's harvest, and this sort of thing," the paper concludes, "will not be tolerated."

A RADIYANSKA UKRAINA editorial (16 July) finds that the Odessa oblast railroad workers are holding up the field work even more than do some of the farmers by failing to provide adequate facilities for transporting the grain. This failure in itself, the paper implies, is not beyond repair but it is also revealed that a number of freight cars earmarked for grain hauling are in a state of utter disrepair while no nails and other materials necessary to put them in working conditions had been made available. Grain traffic snarls are also reported to be common on the Stalin railroad line which services the Zaporozhye Basin area and the Southwestern railway line.

The situation prevailing on the Odessa railroad line in regard to preparations for grain transportation is causing serious alarm.

Ukrainian version:

Stanovyshe, yake stvorylosya na Odeskiy magistrali z pidgotovkoyu do perevozok khliba, vyklykaye seryoznu tryvogu.

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Pursuing the theme on the next day, the same paper compares the grain deliveries to the State to the first commandment (persha zapovid) the violation of which is unthinkable. Whatever the other agricultural shortcomings may be, it is asserted, deliveries must be made on schedule until the plan is fulfilled. Discussing the general progress of the current field work, the editorial says that in at least four oblasts the grain-processing job has bogged down and the delivery plan will be jeopardized if something is not done about it at once. In Izmail oblast, for example, the collective farms' threshing floors are swamped with grain (zavaleni zernom) which has been lying there untouched for some time. Nor are there any trucks available for transporting it. A similar situation prevails in other places:

The grain is still left on the threshing floors and collective farms of Nikolayev, Zaporozhye and Dnepropetrovsk oblasts. There is evidence that the leaders of a considerable number of collective farms and machine-tractor stations are ignoring the mechanization of work on the threshing floors. Sheltered floors, barns, platforms and grain-drying facilities are not available.

Ukrainian version:

Oside khlib na tokakh i v kolkospakh Mykolaivskoy, Zaporizskoy ta Dnipropetrovskoy oblastey. Daetsya vznaky podekudy ignoruvannya kerivnykamy znachnoy chastyny kolkospiv i mashynno-traktornykh stantsiy mekhanizatsii robit na tokakh, vidсутnist krytykh tokiv, maydanchyiv, sernopul'tiv is susharok dlya prosushuvannya zerna.

A short RADYANSKA DONETSHCHINA editorial (18 July) takes a dim view of grain harvesting and delivery in Stalino oblast which, in the paper's words, do not look at all promising. While in many other oblasts the grain-processing tempos are far behind the harvesting, Stalino oblast is said to be lagging in both aspects of the work: "Far from all kolkhozes and sovkhoses ... have done their utmost to insure a high tempo of harvesting and speedy delivery of grain to the State." Here, too, the threshing floors are piled with grain which cannot be moved on time due to lack of mechanization facilities. Grain must not be left on the threshing floors, insists NADDNIPRYANSKA PRAVDA on 18 July, for this makes losses inevitable. Such losses are already noted in Novotroitskiy, Kalancharskiy, Sevashskiy and Skadovskiy rayons where the lack of transportation facilities obstructs the whole process of harvesting and delivery work:

A broadcast from Odessa (17 July), quoting CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA, discloses that a near-chaotic situation in harvesting and grain-delivery has recently come to light quite accidentally in some rayons. A surprise visit to Shyryaevskiy rayon by a group of rural correspondents revealed that "crops are shedding their grain, and only four kolkhozes in the rayon are delivering grain to the State." Deliveries are said to be just as slow and losses as high in Mostovskiy, Savranskiy and a number of other unnamed rayons. Conceding the inadequacy of available transportation facilities, the paper urges the use of draft animals as well as 24-hour work days for trucks and other vehicles. The slowness in Odessa oblast is highlighted also by a BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA editorial of 18 July. The oblast as a whole, says the paper, is far behind its neighboring Izmail, Kherson and Nikolayev oblasts which are not shining examples of speed themselves. Declaring that nothing is done with the grain beyond harvesting it, particularly in Frunzeskiy, Shyryaevskiy, Tsebrikovskiy, Ovideopolskiy and Veliko-Mikhailovskiy rayons, the paper suggests that the "conduct" (povedinka) of those rayons' leaders should be scrutinized since there is no excuse for their poor performance. The necessary harvesters and other machines as well as manpower are available but the work is at a standstill. Anyone and anything that obstructs speedy grain deliveries to the State, the editorial concludes, "must be removed."

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ZARYA VOSTOKA announces (18 July) that the first days of the harvest have already revealed grave shortcomings in Georgian SSR's agriculture. The paper's criticism, however, is milder than it might be under the circumstances because, as it further points out, harvesting is made particularly difficult by the crops "flattened by the elements" (poleganie). A number of scientific methods are said to have been worked out for harvesting these "flattened crops" (polegshie khleba) but "unfortunately, these advanced methods have not been included in the practice of all machine operators." Speedy harvesting and deliveries of grain elsewhere in the Republic are hampered by the failure of the local Party and agricultural officials "to grasp the importance" of mechanized work, especially the mechanization of threshing floors.

PRAVDA's blanket indictment of irregularities in agricultural work (21 July) covers a much wider area than the one discussed by the mentioned regional papers. Asserting that the "harvesting front" (front zhatvy) is spreading farther northward from day to day, the paper declares that the necessary mechanical and cadre preparations are not in keeping with the growing scope of activities. Summarizing the complaints already voiced by a number of regional papers, the editorial says that even at this late date the repairs of combines, threshers and other implements have not been completed; the construction of grain-drying facilities (sushilki) and sheltered threshing floors (krytye toka) and grain-storage facilities (zernokhranilishcha) is hopelessly behind schedule. Little more progress is noted in the preparation of harvesters and qualified cadres to man them: Much attention is called to continuing grain losses which, in the paper's view, rank among the gravest agricultural failings:

The machine-tractor stations of Penza, Ivanovsk and Astrakhan oblasts and Kazakh SSR are behind in combine repairs In Dnepropetrovsk oblast many combines are not equipped with loss-prevention devices Considerable losses of grain are incurred in Moldavia

Russian version:

Otstayut s remontom kombainov mashinno-traktornie stantsii Penzenskoy, Ivanovskoy, Astrakhanskoy oblastey, Kazakhskoy SSR V Dnepropetrovskoy oblasti mnogie kombainy rabotayut bez prispособleniy, preduprezh-dayushchikh poter' Znachitelnie poter' zerna dopuskayutsya na pol'akh Moldavii

Pressing the drive for higher grain-delivery tempos and better agricultural performance in Odessa oblast in general, CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA lists inadequate mass political education and the complete indifference to the harvester operator, "the central figure" of the current season, as the chief sources of trouble. In its two consecutive editorials (22 & 23 July) reviewing agricultural progress to date, the paper says that at least nine rayons are still very slow in their harvesting and deliveries but a number of unnamed others are not much faster. In Mostovskiy, Pervomaiskiy, Domanivskiy, Troitskiy and other rayons the grain-delivery schedules are said to have been "thrown to the winds" while harvesting operations in Baltskiy, Gratievskiy and Chervono-Oknyanskiy rayons are "very unsatisfactory."

A MOLOT editorial of 23 July speaks of the "mountains of grain" (gory zerna) left lying on the threshing floors unattended at a time when "every hour counts." Since unprocessed grain cannot be delivered to the State, the whole delivery program is being jeopardized. In Razvilenskiy and other rayons, for example, grain deliveries have been very slow from the start. Since much of the cleaning is being done by hand, large amounts of grain have accumulated in the collective farms and on the threshing floors but only a small portion of the stuff finds its way to the State delivery points.

A summarized STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial (22 July) makes disparaging reference to the Soviet and Party officials of Petrovskiy, Sovetskiy, Levokumskiy and Arzgirskiy rayons who "are paying insufficient attention to the grain-delivery schedules," but it does not amplify the point. A brief item broadcast from Kherson on 26 July says that the oblast Party committee is now taking steps to improve the "very unsatisfactory" harvesting and delivery progress in Veliko-Alexandrovskiy rayon.

Next to harvesting and deliveries, the chronic inefficiency in the handling and maintenance of farm machinery comes in for the largest share of official attention. Combine harvesters are simply standing idle while those in use are not utilized to full capacity, says NADDNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA on 15 July. KURSKAYA PRAVDA of the same date significantly suggests that a little more solicitude for the welfare of the machine operators might improve the performance of the machines themselves. It is the duty of the Party and other local leaders "to provide normal conditions" for the mentioned operators, says the paper, thereby inspiring them to better work:

The indifference to the requirements of the machine operators, an attitude displayed by some chairmen of kolkhozes, is utterly inadmissible.

Harvesting delays and grain losses are threatened if the "numerous organizational and technical defects" are not eliminated in short order, declares SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS on 20 July. These technical defects, it is pointed out, throw the combine harvesters off the previously prepared schedules, and the result is confusion all along the line. The paper makes no further reference to the organizational defects, but this point is amplified by KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA on 22 July. As a result of "administrative blundering," says the paper, many a trained combine operator finds himself doing unskilled labor while the machines remain idle for lack of qualified personnel. An unsigned MOLOT article broadcast from Rostov on 25 July admits that technical defects, poor servicing and an indifferent attitude toward the machinery have resulted in "mass idleness of combines." Matveyevo-Kurgansk, Machetinsky, Semikarakovskiy and "some other" rayons are said to be the worst in the oblast:

Precious time is lost, and great grain losses are permitted because of the inefficient use of the harvesting machines and the poor organization of the work of the combine units. This causes great losses to the State, kolkhozes and kolkhozniks.

Picking up the grain-loss theme on 26 July, RADIYANSKA UKRAINA says that this sort of criminal negligence continues to plague Ukrainian agriculture. Losses, it is pointed out, occur during the transportation of grain, through the improper use of harvesters and through the failure to equip the machinery with grain-catching devices. In the forest-steppe and Polesye areas a good many harvesting machines remain idle while "an overwhelming number of them" are employed only part time. In Nikolayev, Kherson and Kirovograd oblasts where, like in other parts of the country, much of the crop has been "flattened by the elements" nothing is being done about gathering the stalks of wheat that remain on the fields after the combines have gone over them. One of the major sources of grain losses, however, is late harvesting:

Experiments have shown that a 15-day delay in combine-harvesting of winter wheat produces a 10% loss of grain through shedding, and after 25 days such losses amount to 18%. It can be imagined how much grain is lost by those kolkhozes and sovkhoses which delay harvesting beyond the time specified by the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party. This threat has already become real in many rayons.

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by the Novorzhevskiy rayon Party committee affecting the activities of all its subordinate, primary organizations. What actually happened was that only four of the rayon's 60 organizations were informed about the mentioned decision, and took note of it--the others never heard about it. Unfortunately, Tarasov points out, Novorzhevskiy rayon "is not the only one in the oblast" where this type of bureaucracy has permeated all Party affairs.

Intraparty democracy, says SEVERNAYA PRAVDA quoting Stalin (18 July), means greater freedom for the Party masses and "develops in them a feeling" of being masters of the Party. The recent "report and election meetings" (otchetno-vybornoie sobrania) have revealed, however, that to a number of local Party committees and officials intraparty democracy is no more than an abstract theory. Attempts are still being made to hush up unfavorable criticism at Party gatherings, and the meetings themselves are said to be characterized by the familiar "low political and ideological level."

The following significant statement, without amplification, is contained in KOMMUNISTI editorial broadcast from Tbilisi in Russian on 25 July:

At the present time the Georgian Communist Party is correcting the mistakes permitted by the previous Party leaders, and carrying out a considerable amount of work to implement the instructions of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party

The above statement is qualified by the paper's concluding remark that although "serious deficiencies" in Party work are still being revealed throughout the Republic, the Communists are criticizing them "with Bolshevik frankness" at the current reporting and election meetings. A short dispatch from Tbilisi of 26 July speaks of the "serious shortcomings" in the Tbilisi oblast Komsomol education network brought to light in a speech by Katyashvili who proposed a number of (unspecified) measures to cope with the situation.

Intraparty Democracy, Honored in the Breach: That nepotism, corrupt practices and other intraparty irregularities are not exclusively regional phenomena but are also observable in Moscow itself, the well-spring of Communist activities, is seen in a long unsigned PRAVDA article of 18 July (not broadcast). A recent plenary session of the Moscow city Party Committee is said to have disclosed a liberal sprinkling of uninvestigated (neproverennye), unworthy (nedostoynye) and casual (sluchainye) people among the city's Communist officials, including its 7,000 primary Party secretaries. Lack of Party control has produced rampant nepotism in the city's industrial and other establishments whose officials

select their personnel on the basis of family and other-wise friendly relations, surround themselves with servile flatterers and "their own kind" of people

Russian version:

podbirayut kadry po semeinym i priyatel'skim otnosheniyam, okruzhayut sebya podkhalimami, "svoimi" ludmi

What this practice often leads to, besides suppression of criticism, is indicated in the case of "Kalibr" plant, one of Moscow's largest. Having hired a large number of relatives and personal friends, the director and his deputy were able to "pad the accounts" (zanimatsya pripiskami), cheat the State and publicize non-existent achievements at the same time. This is said to have been made possible by "creating an atmosphere of mutual whitewashing and stage-managed clamor about the plant's non-existent successes" (zdes byla sozdana obstanovka krugovoy poruki, paradnoy shumikhi po povodu mnimyykh uspekhnov zavoda).

Discussing violations of intraparty democracy (vnutripartiynaya demokratiya), PRAVDA (25 July) points to the Drogobych oblast Party Committee as a glaring example of un-Bolshevik behavior. That organization not only pays little attention to its subordinate rayon and city Committees but also fails to rely on its own "aktiv" (active membership) which is itself a grave violation of Party rules:

We still have quite a few Party officials who try to exercise their leadership with the aid of a narrow circle of people; they have little contact with rank-and-file Communists or the Party aktiv.

Russian version:

U nas eshche nemalo takikh partiynikh rabotnikov, kotorige pytayutsya rukovodit pri pomoshchi uzkoogo kruga lyudey; oni malo obshchayutsya s kommunistami, partiynym aktivom.

Drogobych oblast is believed to have too many officials that fit the above description, but such individuals may also be found in many other places, the paper says. The Bobruisk and Aktyubinsk (Kazakh SSR) city committees, for example, appear to believe that aktivs are to be kept "for parade purposes and the solemn approval of decisions" (dlya parada i formalno-torzhestvennogo odobreniya resheniy) on which they had not been consulted.

KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (26 July) warns the oblast Party propagandists against "weakening their political work" among the masses, especially in the rural areas. These agitators do not always link their talks with the problem on hand, that is greater production, thereby defeating the purpose of political enlightenment. Moreover, their so-called lectures are said to betray an appalling ignorance of current affairs. Such is the situation in Alexandriyskiy, Dobrovelychkovskiy, Znamenskiy, Novomirgorodskiy and a number of other rayons. Many of the "serious shortcomings" in the oblast Party work could be avoided if "the most worthy and authoritative" Communists were elected to run the primary Party organizations, declares SEVERNAYA PRAVDA on 26 July. Recent Party meetings have disclosed that many of these secretaries are too inexperienced, incompetent or both. Such officials, it is pointed out, make all but impossible "the absolute observance of intraparty democracy." No further details are offered on this point, however.

MISCELLANEOUS

A short item broadcast from Odessa on 26 July states tersely that the Veliko-Fontana, Zaliznychny and Ostapovskiy rural councils (selsovety), all under the jurisdiction of the Odessa city council, were liquidated by a decree of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Council dated 17 July 1952.